

PRESS RELEASE

Joseph C. Grew  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Free Europe Committee, Inc.

November 16, 1956

11/16/56  
4/3/81  
REF ID: A6540

Since the uprising in Hungary the Soviet press has falsely accused Radio Free Europe of inciting the rebellion. Fears that this may have been the case have also been expressed in some free world newspapers and radio comment.

A Radio Free Europe directive, issued as long ago as December 12, 1951, stated categorically:

"Speakers are warned not to yield to a natural impulse to bring hope to their compatriots by promising armed intervention by the West. To raise the hopes of our audiences in this fashion would be to do them a cruel disservice; it would also constitute radical misrepresentation of the present policies of the western powers. Such talks may not be broadcast on RFE."

Over the years since that time Radio Free Europe has never deviated from this essential policy and practice.

During the Hungarian uprisings, Radio Free Europe has stressed reporting factually the debate and actions taking place in the United Nations, avoiding speculation as to their outcome; reporting on events within Hungary and elsewhere without exaggeration, prediction or promise; recounting fully western and other opinion outraged by Soviet brutality, and broadcasting back to Hungary the

1956  
G

responsible demands and programs being voiced by patriot groups and their radio stations.

For more than six years, Radio Free Europe has kept the people of Hungary informed on a 20-hour-a-day basis of the true events and public opinion in the free world, and in their own country; has given them news which the Stalinists have sought to suppress by jamming, rigid control of their domestic press and radio, and by a virtual ban on almost all publications from the free world.

The Polish people have already repudiated the suggestion that their violent revolt in Poznan was the result of outside forces. Similarly, the Nagy coalition government, before it was attacked by the Soviets, firmly repudiated the Soviet accusation of external incitement. It is an insult to the brave Hungarian people to suggest that they have responded to any other influence than their innate love of liberty and their courageous devotion to the cause of freedom.

Radio Free Europe has also repeatedly broadcast messages of hope and encouragement for peaceful liberation expressed by President Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles, Adlai Stevenson and other American political, religious, labor, agricultural and business leaders, pledging that the cause of their freedom would remain a basic part of American

Government policy, and would be kept foremost on the world's council tables. It broadcast the resolution of the United States Senate, and the platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties calling for freedom of the captive people by peaceful means.

Radio Free Europe and the Free Europe Press have performed the functions of a free press for the people behind the Iron Curtain. It is vital that they continue this work until freedom is regained. It has never been the policy or practice of Radio Free Europe to incite rebellion; instead it has been the policy to keep the hope of ultimate freedom alive and to encourage the captive people to seek expanding freedom by peaceful means.

- - - - -